THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

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JULY 2018 ISSUE 255

SUMMER OF PRIDE

We look at this month's local Pride festivals!

BIANCA DEL RIO

comes to the Midlands!

BODY IMAGE

Have your say: Does it matter?

SUMMER SWIMWEAR

We take a look at this summer's HOTTEST *swimwear styles*

EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE!

The story of the boy who wanted to wear a dress to prom...

+

VIRAL
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Have ya heard?

Drag Race star Courtney Act to visit Coventry

Celebrity Big Brother winner and RuPaul's Drag Race star Courtney Act will be appearing at an intimate venue in Coventry as part of her international tour later this year.

The popular reality TV star will be bringing her Under The Covers tour to the city's Rialto Reborn on Saturday 25 August, from 7.30pm.

The official write-up for the event reads: "Courtney has been under the covers with many, but not usually in front of a live audience. It's time to get tucked in with all your favourite songs that have been covered in one way or another by all your favourite artists.

"Lie back and enjoy the caress of those romantic satin sheets as she strips some songs down and flips others on their back to show you just how gender fluid and genre fluid a great song can be! The sweet dreams Courtney spins will leave you pillow fighting and pillow biting."

The event is suitable for people over the age of 14, but those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

VIP meet & greet tickets have sold out, but general admission tickets are still available at rialtoreborn.co.uk

Birmingham Bulls return triumphant from The Bingham Cup

For the first time in their history, the Birmingham Bulls, a rugby union club based in the gay community, entered and returned triumphant from the 'World Cup of gay rugby', winning two major titles.

Both the A and B teams enjoyed resounding victories in the Bingham Cup in Amsterdam, where 1,700 players from 72 teams across 16 countries battled it out to win their respective divisions.

The competition is named in memory of 9/11 hero and rugby player Mark Bingham, who founded two of the world's first inclusive rugby clubs. His dream was to be able to create a team where everyone was welcome and would be good enough.

Birmingham Bulls A Team captain Andy Tsui said: "We are incredibly proud of this achievement. Seven years ago we were just four friends throwing a rugby ball around at a local park. Our weekly, persistent drive towards development and growth has seen a rugby club form, and we're now reaping the rewards."

Birmingham Bulls B Team captain Dean Robertson said: "Many of our team members were inexperienced, and we also picked up injuries during the tournament, so it's fair to say we battled against the odds to win. The terrible thought of coming home with nothing really inspired us, and we got through with pure heart and determination."

Bulls chairman David Cumpston said: "The success we've had at this year's Bingham Cup is not only a massive achievement for the club, but also a massive step forward in accepting people from the LGBT community in sport. I am proud of Birmingham Bulls and our contribution towards this movement."

Brum Gay Symphony Orchestra raises hundreds for LGBT foundation

Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra and an audience of over 150 people last month threw their support behind LGBT charity The Naz And Matt Foundation, raising hundreds of pounds in the process.

The Naz And Matt Foundation has a mission 'to never let religion, any religion, come in the way of the unconditional love between parents and their children' - something which members of the BGSO can really get behind.

The final sum raised came to £352.66 - funds that will help the foundation end prejudice in religious communities against LGBT+ people.

Tranz Talkz event heading to Coventry

A free event hosted by prominent queer artist Travis Alabanza takes place at Coventry's Belgrade Theatre this September (Thursday 20).

In what's being billed as an intimate dinner of burgers, chips and drinks, the show will reflect and document experiences of queer and transphobic public harassment.

In response to the lack of public archive around how queer and trans people navigate public space, Alabanza is holding conversations across the UK to find out about people's experiences when going outside.

The event is geared towards trans, non binary and gender non-conforming people, and is open to anyone who faces harassment based on their trans/queerness.

The evening will take a dinner table format, with food & drink provided and prompt questions. The conversations will be sound-recorded, as part of Travis's ongoing documentation of the trans experience for archiving and heritage collection purposes.

Miss Penny storms it at Sitges Pride

Birmingham drag star Miss Penny had the very special honour of performing at the closing ceremony of Sitges Pride last month.

The popular drag queen flew over to the Spanish town to perform alongside Sitges legend Lady Diamond on the final day of the weekend-long festival.

The duo sang songs including Don't Leave Me This Way and Somewhere Over The Rainbow.

Fellow Midlands performer Vicky Jackson also delighted crowds with her set of Katy Perry hits.

Organisers of the festival have once again hailed the event a huge success, with thousands of people having flown in from across the world to attend.

LGBT+ Inclusion In Sport conference heading to Villa Park

Birmingham LGBT is hosting a one-day LGBT+ Inclusion In Sport conference on Friday 13 July at Villa Park, the home of Aston Villa Football Club.

Featuring expert speakers from across the sporting world, including Team GB Paralympian Claire Harvey, and specialist breakout sessions exploring LGBT participation across the sport sector, the conference is this year's must-attend event on LGBT inclusion in sport.

For more information, visit eventbrite.co.uk/e/lgbt-inclusion-in-sport-conference-tickets-45192198081

Have ya heard?

Julian Clary announces new tour

Camp comedian Julian Clary's 2019 nationwide tour will stop off at a number of venues in the Midlands.

In 'outrageously camp' new show Born To Mince, Clary will 'bare his soul as never before in the interests of light entertainment'. The show will combine numerous songs with previews from his new memoir, A Night At The Lubricant.

The tour will stop off at: Stafford's Gatehouse Theatre on Thursday 21 March; Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn on Tuesday 26 March; Leicester's Curve on Sunday 7 April; Coventry's Warwick Arts Centre on Sunday 12 May; Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Friday 31 May; and Nottingham's Playhouse on Saturday 1 June.

Gay murder-mystery evening heads to Stoke art gallery

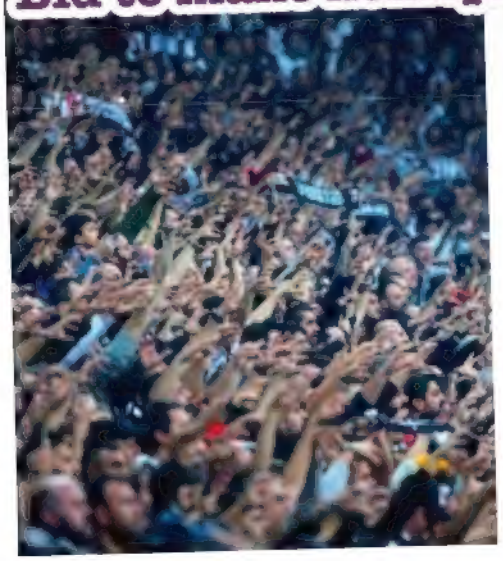
Stoke-on-Trent's Potteries Museum & Art Gallery is this month hosting a one-off murder-mystery event called Gay Pride Bride.

Presented by the Mow Cop Players on Friday 27 July, the story features a double wedding with two brides and two grooms. But who is marrying who? And when the father of the bride is found murdered, who will step in to give her away?

Tickets for the event are on sale now and cost £27.50. The price includes a three-course dinner, coffee and a glass of wine or juice on arrival.

More information can be found at stokemuseums.org.uk. Book tickets by calling 01782 232323.

Bid to make homophobic chanting at football illegal



Conservative MP Damian Collins, who chairs parliament's Digital, Culture, Media & Sport Committee, wants to extend the 1991 Football Offences Act to help protect LGBT football players and fans.

Mr Collins and ex-rugby player Gareth Thomas will present a draft bill in parliament.

Mr Collins said: "Whilst, if enacted, the bill would protect LGBT+ fans and players in the UK, recent events, including at the World Cup, have once again demonstrated that homophobic abuse takes place at football matches the world over.

"Fifa and other sports governing bodies should take the necessary steps to ensure that homophobic abuse will never be tolerated, and that action will be taken against people who engage in activities like these, no matter where the game is played.

"We hope that the bill will soon become law, and will contribute to making football a sport that is truly open to everyone."

The 1991 Football Offences Act covers indecent or racist chanting, throwing objects inside premises and going onto the pitch without permission. Any such behaviour is currently punishable with a fine of up to £1,000.

Mr Collins wants to amend the act to make "chanting or gesturing of an indecent nature with reference to either sexual orientation or gender identity" against the law.

Local Life Story

Name: Rico Johnson-Sinclair

Occupation: Ageing With Pride Campaign Manager

Place of birth: Birmingham

Star sign: Aries

Age: 28

About Rico

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Wolverhampton for the first seven years of my life. We then made the move to Birmingham, stopping at Perry Barr and Erdington before coming to a halt in Sutton Coldfield.

Single or attached?

Attached, but not at the hip.

What makes you happy?

Commuting to work whilst singing at the top of my lungs, warm, dark nights with a cool breeze, lazy Sundays, UNMUTED and understanding LGBTQ+ issues, queer films, and arts outside of London. Date nights, being body-confident, and writing short stories and scripts.

What makes you sad?

Accidentally dying white clothes with black t-shirts, and whitewashing. Having social media squash your body-confidence.

Any temperature over 25 degrees celsius makes me wilt.

What makes you angry?

Liquorice, world issues being ignored in lieu of celebrity culture, people who move at an exceptionally slow pace. Microaggressions. Ignorance and ageism.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I'd give myself superpowers.

What's been the most embarrassing thing you've done in your life?

I'm not falling for that one...

Would you consider getting married in the future?

I'd love to, but my marriage would definitely be unconventional.

Coming out

When did you first know you were gay?

Looking back, I probably knew when I was around 10, but you hide things you don't want to accept from yourself in order to exist, so it became apparent when I was 12.

When did you come out?

When I was 13, I wrote a letter to a guy I got the bus with every day, telling him how I felt. I'd apparently left it at home on my bed, and it was found. I remember trying to pretend Ashley was a girl. I thought I was convincing, but apparently not.

What was school like for you as a gay teenager?

It wasn't easy, and being black and alternative didn't help things. Sutton Coldfield is a bit sheltered from the inner city, so I guess that a lack of understanding led to cruelty. I'm sort of glad it happened that way, though; it gave me a stronger sense of self.

Who was the first person you told you were gay?

My friend, Beverly. In a twist of fate, she was also my downfall. My younger years read like a dramatic after-school special.

What would you say to a youngster trying to come to terms with their own sexuality?

Understanding that everyone has their own unique set of circumstances is really important. Coming out to my family led to me becoming homeless at 16. My advice is to do what you have to until you can do what you want to.

Your career

When you were younger, what did you want to be?

A novelist. I still love stories. I'm really passionate about perspectives, and how they can be explored interpersonally to create or facilitate understanding. That's why I started running CineQ, my queer film community cinema.

Quickfire

Who's your favourite film director?

Gus van Sant.

What's your favourite book?

The Perks Of Being A Wallflower or The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time.

Half empty or half full?

50% it's volume.

What's your favourite food?

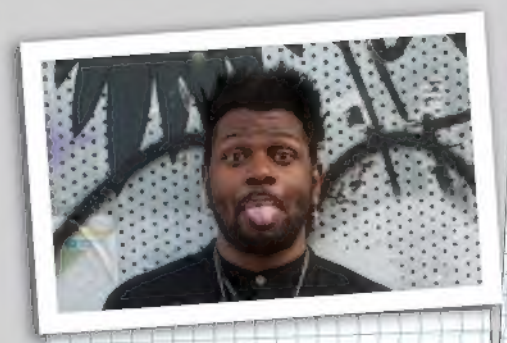
Japanese, specifically Sashimi with Ikura. But Korean fried chicken is bomb, too.

And how about your favourite drink?

Raspberry, strawberry and lime frozen margaritas.

Madonna or Lady Gaga?

Sevdaliza.



What was your first job when you left school?

I worked at Toni & Guy for about a year, but worked in hairdressing for about two-and-a-half years at a variety of different salons. I kinda thought that was what you did if you were gay.

What's your role at Birmingham LGBT?

I'm campaign manager for the incredibly important campaign, Ageing With Pride. It's aimed at tackling ageism and increasing the visibility of LGBT people over the age of 50. The campaign draws on their frequently unique experiences, including being criminalised due to their sexuality, and the AIDS pandemic. The campaign will launch in August and continue through to July 2019.

What are the challenges in your job?

The biggest challenge is trying to engage some of the most isolated people in the wider community. Ageism is apparent in everything, and so a lot of older LGBTQ+ people aren't engaged in services, opportunities or the community generally. Visibility for this campaign will be the key to changing that.

What are the highlights?

I'm genuinely devoted to the cause. Even at 28, I can see my old lifestyles falling away because I'm 'older than optimum' on the scene. And I know very well how it feels to be isolated. I want more for the generation that paved the way for us... Also, the office dynamic is pretty awesome, as is the flexibility to work the way that's best for productivity. I've had a similar experience while working previously at Flatpack Film Festival, but I was uncertain that I would ever find it again.

What else do you do?

I run a queer film community cinema called CineQ, which has been up and running for a year now, with the support of Flatpack and SHOUT Festival. There just aren't enough places in the Midlands programming queer film at cinemas. CineQ aims to provide a year-round programme of queer films for people who wouldn't otherwise get a chance to see them on the big screen. We also offer a programme of foreign language and short films.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Happy. I just want to build a place where everyone can feel accepted but also understood, regardless of race, gender, sexuality or age.

Gay scene

How long have you been frequenting the Midlands gay scene?

I started going out when I was young, so 10 or 11 years.

What's been your fondest memory of the scene?

Dancing to baseline in Route II's backroom on a Monday.

Who's your favourite person on the scene?

Queeny has been doing drag for a long time, and I've seen her drag evolve into something incredibly thoughtful and entertaining. I'd also like to put in a word for Yshee Black. She's really giving visibility to all the black and brown queens here in Birmingham, and Church of Yshee on Sundays is my Mecca. She's so funny, and she's really giving talent in the region a platform. Queeny and Yshee's mock arguments on social media are life-affirming.

What do you most enjoy about the scene?

Greasy food at 4am whilst drunk.

What have you noticed about the way the scene's changed over the years?

When I first started visiting, there wasn't much acceptance for the little black boy who wanted to dance. I think that had a lot to do with the image of what it was to be gay at the time. That image definitely wasn't black, and it still isn't, to some extent. So I left the gay scene and started going to The Rainbow, then moved to London. Moving back a couple of years ago, I've seen nights like Glitter Shit, Second Self and, more recently, Opulence, contribute to things changing. We are arriving at an age of inclusion. Not that there aren't gatekeepers perpetuating antiquated ideals.

How would you change the scene?

I'd make it more focused on community and less focused on one-night stands and binge drinking. We have apps now, people.

Time out

Where do you like to go on a night out?

I generally go out for one-off nights like Shorebitch, Glitter Shit, Regression Sessions, etc. I'll never be the type to spend every weekend in the same place listening to the same mix. My biggest problem is that I'm not generally big on bubblegum pop. I really like immersive dining events too, and there are some good pop-ups in Birmingham. Cinema events are my sweet-spot, though - and no one does those like Flatpack Film Festival.

What do you do to relax?

I watch a lot of TV and films, but I don't have much time at the moment. I still like to write when I can. Occasionally I'll hang out at my better half's lifestyle store in Harborne, Hedgerow Stories. I'm going to pester him to teach me some floristry. I think that would be pretty relaxing.

What do you enjoy on telly?

At the moment I'm obsessed with Pose. I'm rewatching Class on Netflix, and I watch a lot of anime.

What was the last track or album you bought or downloaded?

I'm constantly on Spotify. My favourite four tracks at the moment are: Ravyn Lenae - 'Thirsty'; Young Fathers - 'Toy'; BbyMutha - 'Indian Hair'; and Anna Wise - 'Precious Possession.'

Which one website do you spend the most time on?

Facebook, for sure.

What type of holiday do you prefer?

I've only ever had city breaks, but I'm looking forward to my first beach holiday in Sitges later this month.

Everybody's Talking About Jamie

West End musical Everybody's Talking About Jamie is being broadcast nationwide to a cinema near you on Thursday 5 July. The smash-hit show is based on the true story of Jamie Campbell, who, after announcing he wanted to attend his prom wearing a dress, was banned by his school.

When prom night arrived, Jamie was turned away by teachers. However, thanks to an overwhelming show of support from his fellow students, he was ultimately allowed to enjoy his prom night alongside his friends...

Little did Jamie and Margaret Campbell know seven years ago that their story would inspire a musical. Yet what started as one teenage boy's simple but trailblazing ambition has turned into the huge West End hit, Everybody's Talking About Jamie

The show, which charts Jamie's battle to go to his school prom in a frock - and Margaret's fiercely protective, unconditional love for her son - is by turns funny and poignant, and has twice had its run in the heart of London's theatreland extended. And now people who are unable to travel to the capital to see the award winning musical can check it out at a local cinema - the show will be screened live at more than 500 cinemas in the UK and Ireland on 5 July

The remarkable sequence of events that inspired the show started in 2011, when Jamie, then just 15 and having loved performing and dressing in frocks since he was a young boy, contacted a documentary company when he feared his plan for the prom was about to be derailed by his school.

The resulting film, Jamie: Drag Queen At 16, was shown on the BBC, where it was seen by theatre director Jonathan Butterell. Working with musician Dan Gillespie Sells and lyricist Tom MacRae, Jonathan created Everybody's Talking About Jamie, which started life at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield in February 2017.

The extraordinary nightly standing ovations from appreciative audiences prompted award-winning West End theatre owner and producer Nica Burns to fast track the show to London. It opened there last November.

The story, inspired by one boy's experience, includes universal themes of love, perseverance in the face of adversity and, ultimately, acceptance. It also features cracking songs, boasts a great heart, and benefits from a very funny script.

And now it's just been announced that Everybody's Talking About Jamie is to be made into a film by the creators of the movie Tyrannosaur, which starred Olivia Coleman, and iconic television series This Is England.

"It's mad, it's just snowballed," says Jamie "When Jonathan talked about doing a musical, I thought he meant in a community theatre, and when the show went into the West End, I thought, wow! Then it was extended and nominated for lots of awards, and now the film. It's completely taken over our lives."

"As far as we were concerned, the documentary was the end of it," adds Margaret. "Jamie had achieved what he wanted, and we never thought in a million years that it would be turned into a musical, and now a film. It's just got bigger and bigger. Every time the phone rings, something else has happened."

"It's a love story, really, with a happy ending, but it's also about empowerment"

Jamie and Margaret remain resolutely down to earth. Jamie is now forging a career in the creative industries in London, to where he moved four years ago, but is touched that people recognise him and ask for autographs and selfies Margaret has no plans to leave Toronto, a former mining village near Bishop Auckland, where she works for the Samaritans. "Oh no. I've got too many friends and family there," she says. "I love the bright lights, but I like to go home after. I'm a home girl, really."

The show details some of the bullying Jamie experienced at school for being gay. Many of those who nowadays approach him for autographs and selfies tell him that the production has truly inspired them - whether to come out as gay to their parents, or to cope with being bullied themselves.

"People are so positive about the show and say that it's really helped them," says Jamie.

Margaret adds: "I still get quite emotional when people come up to me and say something nice about Jamie, because this is the acceptance that he should have had back then."

But while it's been an exciting experience for Jamie and Margaret, their lives aren't all 'West End glitz and glamour'. They very much want to be of help to others.

Jamie is already following in his mother's caring footsteps by taking over the show's Twitter feed (@JamieMusical, #AskJamie) each Friday to dispense advice to fans. And along with the show's producers, he and Margaret have been developing an education pack to take into schools, to help youngsters with issues such as acceptance and diversity

"I may not be the most experienced advice-giver in the world, but I try my best," says Jamie. "I get a lot of questions about how to handle bullies at school, how not to let them get to you. I tell people that I know it's difficult, but that if you focus on what makes you happy, you can overcome them."

Margaret adds. "I think the most important thing to remember is that your school days don't last forever, even though when it's happening to you it does feel like that. You must talk to somebody. If you can't talk to your parents, talk to the parents of a friend, or Childline or Samaritans. There is always help out there."

Jamie and Margaret would like the live screening to open up the debate even more. "We hope it will get people talking because the show is a great starting

point," says Margaret. "It's about being more tolerant and accepting difference. You don't necessarily have to understand everybody's situation, but at the same time you don't have to be ignorant.

"It isn't just about Jamie in a dress. It's about believing in yourself and standing up for what you believe in, in the face of opposition. And it asks, 'What's normal? Who defines normal?' We're all normal. We shouldn't put anyone in a box or make them dull and grey Some people want to be in technicolour."

Talking of colour, Jamie and Margaret have turned up for this interview in colour-coordinated outfits - something that often happens. "Maybe we've got a weird psychic thing going on, like twins," jokes Margaret.

They were twinned again at various theatre awards this year, with Everybody's Talking About Jamie winning seven coveted gongs. For one event, Jamie had bought a length of "gorgeous red fabric that I knew would look great as a frock."

Just as they'd done when he was a boy, Margaret and her mother (who owned a curtain shop and would use the samples) made the material into a frock - but this time it was from Jamie's design. "I made a lot of mood boards and pulled a lot of references in, like Vivienne Westwood and Christian Lacroix," he says. "I wanted it to be classic but make a big statement. The material had this beautiful sheen. When you draped it and the light hit it, it looked fabulous."

Margaret, meanwhile, had bought her own stunning number in complementary shades - for £5 at a charity shop. "She has an eye for a bargain, me mam," says Jamie, laughing

Jamie and Margaret have seen the stage show many times, and will be at one of the live screenings. "I still get emotional," says Margaret. "Every time I say I'm not going to cry, but I always take tissues. There's always something that will set me off. It's our story but we're ordinary people, so everyone can relate to it, and that's why they get pulled in."

"It's a love story, really, with a happy ending," Jamie adds, "but it's also about empowerment, and that really resonates with audiences, whatever and whoever they are."

Everybody's Talking About Jamie will be broadcast live from the Apollo Theatre in London's West End to more than 500 cinemas across the UK - including Cineworld's throughout the region; Artrix in Bromsgrove; MAC, Birmingham & Lighthouse in Wolverhampton on Thursday 5 July at 7.20pm. The show is currently booking at Apollo Theatre, London until 6 April 2019 (nimaxtheatres.com)

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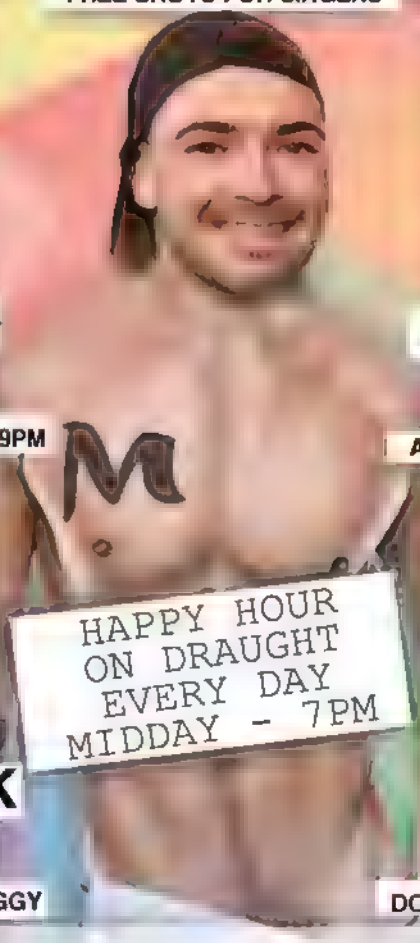

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SUMMER IN SOUTHSIDE

Venture into Southside on the 14th & 15th of this month and you're in for a real treat as the Hippodrome brings entertainment onto the streets. And the best bit? It's free! Featuring traditional funfair rides, retro arcade games, theatre shows, family activities and plenty more, Birmingham Hippodrome's annual Summer In Southside event makes a welcome return...

It's back! Birmingham Hippodrome's two-day family festival, Summer In Southside, returns to the city this month.

Taking place on 14 and 15 July around the Hippodrome and its foyers, this year's event has a retro theme which will see visitors recalling the carefree days of childhood.

Featuring an entirely free programme of events for both adults and children, the area will be transformed into a 'summer playground', complete with traditional funfair rides, retro arcade games and a whole host of nostalgic performances.

Brand new for this year is Fantabulousa. Housed in a technicolour pop-up grotto and devised with some of the region's leading drag artists, the event features stories, songs, dancing, dressing-up and plenty of glitter.

Another highlight of the 2018 edition of the event is the construction of French artist Olivier Grossetête's Perrott's Chinese Tower. Over the weekend, the giant structure will be built, pulled over and squashed.

Birmingham Hippodrome will be running free workshops (from Monday 9 July) for members of the general public who would like to help construct the building blocks in preparation for the festival.

Summer In Southside's theatrical delights include There Be Monsters. The show is a new outdoor commission from The Fabularium, an ensemble who scored a big hit at last year's festival with their production of Reynard The Fox.

And the fun doesn't end there. Inspired by classic arcade games, Actual Reality Arcade brings a life-sized interactive pop-up game zone to the city's streets, while Fun DMC boasts dance competitions, rap lessons, a graffiti train and a 'dad dance-off'.

And if all that's not enough, other festival highlights include street theatre, comedy, installation specialists Dot Comedy, pop-up theatre performances from Pif Paf, live brass band Bostin Brass and live performances from Gorillabot.

Visitors can also enjoy face painting, craft workshops, a whole host of family activities and an array of independent food stalls.

Commenting on the event, Graham Callister, Associate Director, Community Engagement & Festivals at Birmingham Hippodrome, said: "Summer In Southside is a great festival for all the family to enjoy in the heart of the city. We have tons of activities to keep your little ones busy - and to entertain the big kids, too! This year, we're following the theme of 'childhood', which ties in nicely with our blockbuster show at the Hippodrome this summer - Matilda The Musical.
"There'll be retro arcade games, pop-performances, craft workshops and food stalls flooding the streets of Southside, the Arcadian and our foyers. And it's all completely free!"

Summer In Southside takes place in Birmingham on 14 & 15 July

For more information about the festival's programme of events, visit birminghamhippodrome.com

Warwickshire Pride 2018

Saturday 18th August

11:00am - 6:00pm

The Pump Room Gardens, Leamington Spa

Market stalls . Live performances . Trans area . Women's tent
Fairground . Family area . Food stalls . Bar . And much more

2018 theme: RAISE YOUR RAINBOW. Wear colourful clothes, fly your rainbow flags, come to Pride and be proud of who you are

Faryl

Cheeky Girls

Lauren Harries . Bekah

Anita Lanore . Letitia George

Taylor-Louise . Paul Andreas . Sassi Anika

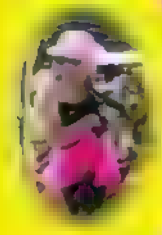
Duck Thieves . Kian Taylor-Jackson . Blu Ernest

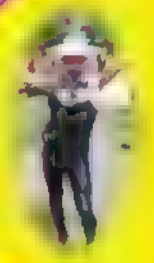
Including The Big Rainbow Bake Off

FREE ENTRY

All people welcome

www.warwickshirepride.co.uk





Proudly supported by

Registered charity number: 1162449

SUMMER OF PRIDE

A guide to July LGBT festivals in the Midlands and, er, Wales...

Girls just wanna have fun at L Fest!

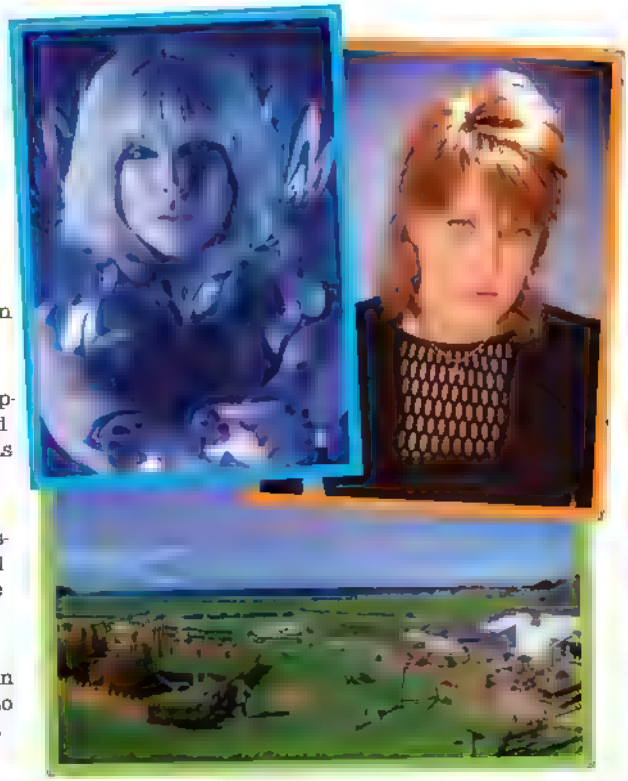
Saturday 13 - Sunday 16 July - Bodafon Farm, Llandudno, Wales
lfest.co.uk

Okay, okay, so it's not in the Midlands anymore, but L Fest was born in the Midlands, organised in the Midlands and raised in the Mid lands - so we've got a close affinity with it.

This year, the weekend long festival is moving to a sweet little camp-site at Bodafon Farm, right on the coast of Llandudno in Wales. And that means there'll be sun (fingers crossed), sea and sand as well as music, culture, arts and friends. What more could you want from the UK's biggest and best women's festival? Sounds perfect, right?

Well, there's more. There's certainly lots to see and do - but organisers also announced last month that two huge 1980s headliners will be joining all you girls for a weekend of fun! So who's excited to see Eurovision star Katrina (of Katrina And The Waves fame) and the one and only Toyah Willcox!

Head to the event website for a complete list of all the attractions on offer. However, as excited as you may get for all that's on, we hate to break it to you but the event is completely sold out. But... there *is* a waiting list for tickets, so it might be worth joining that, just in case.



Chesterfield Pride returns...

Sunday 22 July - Stand Road Park
chesterfieldpride.co.uk

Each year, Chesterfield Pride gets bigger and better - and 2018 is no exception! Hosted at Stand Road Park from 1pm until 7pm, the festival features over 20 live acts on the main stage, plus stalls, bars, food outlets and a fairground.

Headlining the event is retro RnB throwback Big Brovaz vs Booty Luv. There will also be performances from Kelly Wilde, Sam Brookes, Jason Prince, Sam Solace, Lee Lambert and more

Check out the website for all the latest info!

Telford gets a new Pride festival!

Saturday 28 July - Hartshill Park, Oakengates
telfordpride.co.uk

After a few years without an LGBT festival in and around Telford town centre, 2018 sees the return of Telford Pride.

Hosted at Hartshill Park at the end of July, the festival is organised by the Telford LGBT+ Group, and is the town's first community-led LGBT event.

Get up-to-date information at telfordpride.co.uk

FAMILY FUN
RETRO GAMES
SUMMER IN SOUTHSIDE
SAT 14 & SUN 15 JULY
FREE OUTDOOR FESTIVAL
ARCADIAN
Southside
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
birminghamhippodrome.com/summerinsouthside

SUNDAY
JULY
22nd
Chesterfield PRIDE
STAND ROAD PARK
S41 8SW
1PM - 7PM
Big Brovaz
VS
BOOTY LUV
Lolly
MAIN STAGE
STALLS
BAR AREA
FOOD OUTLETS
FAIRGROUND
AYCEIFY
ARUBA
LGBT+
CHESTERFIELD
CHESTERFIELDPRIDE
WWW.CHESTERFIELDPRIDE.CO.UK
CHESTERFIELDPRIDE

SUMMER OF PRIDE
UK Diary Dates

JULY

Pride in London
Saturday 7 July
Trafalgar Square
prideinlondon.org

UK Black Pride
Sunday 8 July
Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens
ukblackpride.org.uk

Sparkle, The National Transgender Celebration
Friday 7 - Sunday 9 July
Sackville Gardens, Manchester
sparkle.org.uk

Friday 13 - Monday 16 July
Bodafon Farm, Llandudno
lfest.co.uk

Pride Bristol
Saturday 14 July
Castle Park
pridebristol.co.uk

Bourne Free Pride
Saturday 14 July
The Triangle, Bournemouth
bournefree.co.uk

Brighton Trans Pride
Friday 20 - Sunday 22 July
Brunswick Square, Hove
transpridebrighton.tumblr.com

Newcastle Pride
Saturday 21 July
Town Moor
northern-pride.com

Pride in Hull
Saturday 21 July
Queens Gardens
prideinhull.co.uk

Chesterfield Pride
Sunday 22 July
Queens Park
facebook.com/Chesterfieldpride

Norwich Pride
Saturday 28 July
The Forum and Chapelfield Gardens
norwichpride.org.uk

Liverpool Pride
Saturday 28 July
Liverpool Pier Head
liverpoolpride.co.uk

Telford Pride
Saturday 28 July
Hartshill Park, Oakengates
telfordpride.co.uk

Sunday 29 July
Preston Park
brighton-pride.org

AUGUST

Bicon Convention
Thursday 2 - Sunday 5 August
Leeds Beckett University
2017.bicon.org.uk

Brighton Pride SOLD OUT!
Friday 3 - Sunday 5 August
Preston Park
brighton-pride.org

Leeds Pride
Sunday 5 August
Lower Briggate
leedspride.com

Chester Pride
Saturday 11 August
Castle Square
chesterpride.co.uk

Warwickshire Pride
Saturday 18 August
Pump Room Gardens
warwickshirepride.co.uk

Manchester Pride
Friday 24 - Sun 27 August
Manchester
manchesterpride.com

Saturday 25 August
Victoria Gardens, Truro
cornwallpride.org

Walsall Pride
Saturday 25 August
Gallery Square
facebook.com/walsallprideofficial

SEPTEMBER

Leicester Pride
Saturday 1 September
Victoria Park
leicesterpride.com

Gloucestershire Pride
Saturday 8 September
Gloucester Park
prideinglos.org.uk

Worcester Pride
Saturday 8 September
Worcester Common
worcesterpride.org

Cumbria Pride
Saturday 29 September
Carlisle City Centre
cumbriapride.org

I'M STOPPING HIV.
I test regularly.

Most people get HIV from someone who doesn't know they have it

Find out all the ways to stop HIV

StartsWithMe.org.uk

Paul Morrell

www.djpaulmorrell.com
twitter @paulmorrell
facebook.com/paulmorrell5

Residencies
Weekly Saturdays at XXL, London
Monthly Fridays at XXL, Birmingham
Monthly Fridays at Ministry of Sound, London

Management
Natalie@music-jam.com

Bookings
Cath@ultradj.co.uk

MOTORCYCLE
AS THE RUSH COMES

Motorcycle As The Rush Comes
Paul Morrell Remix
OUT NOW

SUMMER SWIMWEAR

We take a look at some of the hottest swimwear styles on the market, just in time for the summer holidays...

Jockey Wave Breakers
Swim Shorts

Swim Trunk

Garçon Model Gr
Swim Brief
£30.99
clonezone.co.uk
LIVE TO DIE

LGBT+ INCLUSION IN SPORT

A MUST ATTEND EVENT FOR THOSE WORKING IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, SPORT, HEALTH & EDUCATION

On the day: Plenaries and workshops offer the latest insight into motivations and attitudes of LGBT+ people to sport and physical activity & strategies for engagement

Cost: £30 funded organisations, £10 unfunded organisations

REGISTER AT: www.lgbtincl.eventbrite.co.uk

FRIDAY
13 JULY 2018
VILLA PARK
BIRMINGHAM

activate

Birmingham LGBT · Pride Sports · AVFC · Sport England · Lottery Funded

Olaf Benz BLU 1750
£57.00
deadgoodundies.com

Jockey Modern
Beach Swim Shorts
£30.00
deadgoodundies.com

Andrew Christian
Graffiti Trunk

VASTYPIG

Shiiine On Birmingham

A one day gathering celebrating
Alternative & Dance culture

Orbital
Shed Seven
Happy Mondays
Embrace

Cast **Black Grape** **Julian Cope**
Glasvegas **Reverend and The Makers**
The Wedding Present
Gang of Four **Dreadzone**
Bentley Rhythm Ace
Jim Bob **Abdoujaparov**
A Certain Ratio and much more

FAC51 THE HAÇIENDA
Official Haçienda Aftershow
11pm-3am
Todd Terry
Marshall Jefferson
Jon Dasilva

WORLD FAMOUS DJ'S // CONVERSATIONS // EXHIBITION // CRAFT ALES // FOOD VILLAGE
3 INDOOR STAGES // 2 OUTDOOR STAGES // 1 UKE2

Shiine On

8th September 2018
Genting Arena
The NEC Birmingham 1pm-3am

prices from **£59**
VIP AVAILABLE
buy tickets at
shiineon.com

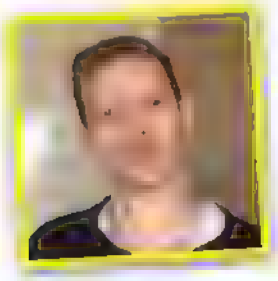
Absolute Radio 90s · What's On

VOX POP

BODY IMAGE

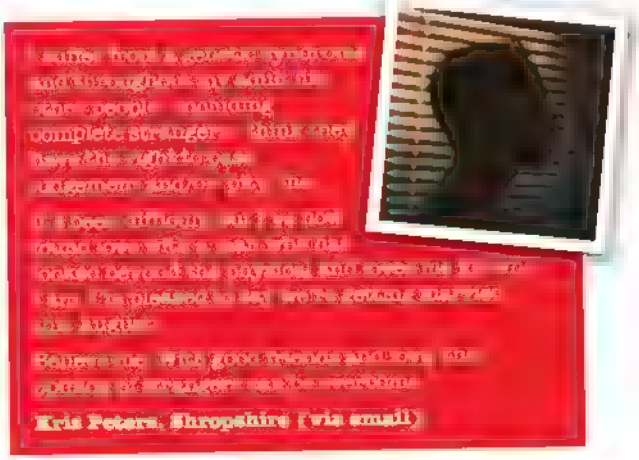
We ask: Does it actually matter?

We took to our Facebook page to ask our readers if body image matters. Is body image important to you? Does a good body make you feel better? Does it make you more attractive to another person? Are you happy with your body? Does your body make you feel self-conscious?

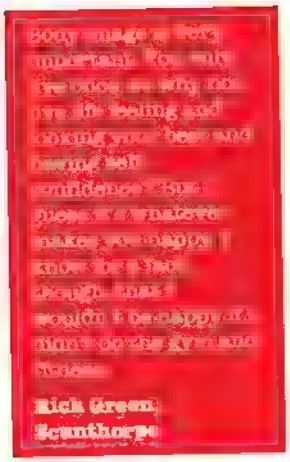


It shouldn't make a difference if you're comfortable with how you look, and if people want to body-shame you, then that's their issue and theirs alone. Be who you are and not who other people want you to be. That said, do what makes you happy - you alone and not other people.

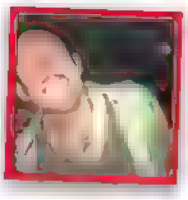
Stewart Elves, Birmingham



Kris Peters, Shropshire (via email)

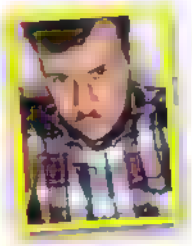


Rich Green, Scunthorpe



Great bodies are lovely to look at, but I've never had the dedication to achieve the same.

Paul Smyth, Cheltenham

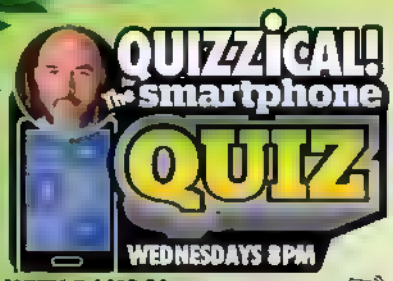


I haven't got the best body, but I like it. It's a person's heart that makes a difference.

Shane Rutter, Birmingham

Yes, I've been there - body-shamed nearly all my life. Now, at 77 years of age, I'm proud that my body keeps working for me!

Peter Eustance, Crewe



WITH DJ YOGI SpeedQuizzing

WITH DJ NIKKI

JULY

eden

THUR 5th — CHARLIE HIDES

SAT 7th — DANNY BEARD

THUR 12th — LA VOIX

FRI 13th — FANNY BURNS

THUR 19th — DANNY BEARD

FRI 20th — MIDS BEARS

SAT 21st — LA VOIX

SUN 22nd — LEATHER SOCIAL

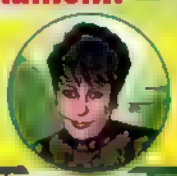
SAT 28th — MARY MAC

FRI 20th SAT 21st **TOUCH MY BRUM**

BIRMINGHAM BULLS
The 5th annual touch rugby tournament.

21st
DJ TONI LEE

14th & 28th
DJ PONI



EVERY FRI & SUN KARAOKE & DISCO WITH DJ NIKKI

Open from 2pm Every Day | 116 Sherlock St. Birmingham, B5 6NB | End of Hurst Street | 0121 622 1953 | www.TheEdenBar.co.uk

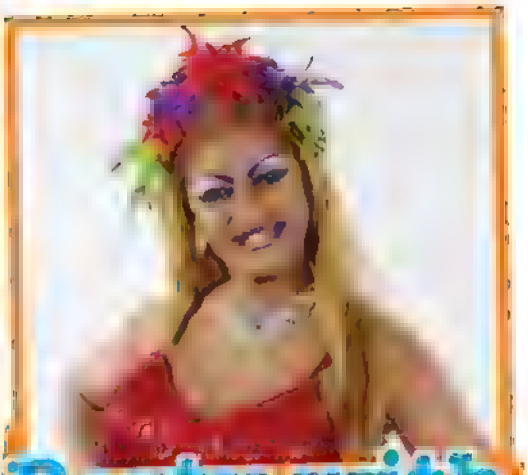
What's On

Sun 1 - Sun 8 July

Charlie Hides returns to the Midlands!

Award winning drag queen and RuPaul's Drag Race season-nine star Charlie Hides is heading out on a two-date mini tour of the Midlands this month. First up, the hilarious queen will be stopping off at Shrewsbury's Havana Republic (on 2 July) as part of their weekly gay night, Fabulous Mondays - hosted by the one and only Miss Penny. If you're not able to make that date, then head over to Birmingham's Eden Bar on Thursday 5 July, where Charlie will be performing live on stage. She's quite simply outrageously good so be sure to swing by and see her!

Monday 2 July - Havana Republic, Shrewsbury
Thursday 5 July - Eden Bar, Birmingham



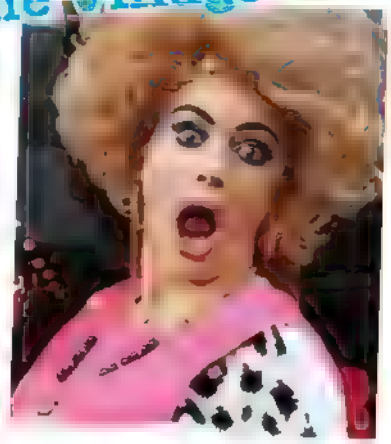
Party with Marty in Coventry

It was acceptable in the 1980s!

Yearning for a night of '80s hits to party along to? Then look no further than The Loft in Birmingham on the first Saturday of every month, where DJ Simon Baker will be spinning the tracks from years gone by!

Every first Saturday of the month - The Loft, Birmingham

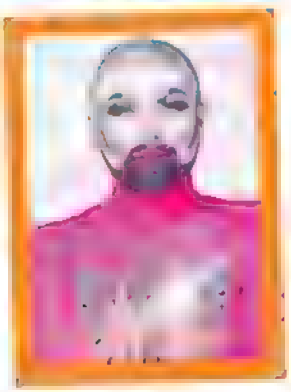
Baga Chipz live at The Village Inn



Kickstart July with a Village Inn night of top cabaret in the company of the fabulous Baga Chipz!
Expect all her usual shenanigans live on stage, with a good old fashioned sing song thrown in for good measure!

Friday 6 July - The Village Inn, Birmingham

Danny Beard's back in Brum



Glitter god Danny Beard makes his way back to his Birmingham home of Eden Bar this month, for what's set to be another fantastic night out.
If you've not seen Danny before, then you really are missing out! The Britain's Got Talent star offers amazing vocals, hilarious tales and oodles of outrageously cheeky banter.

Saturday 7 July - Eden Bar, Birmingham

JULY
CABARET
FRI 06
BAGA CHIPZ
FRI 13
MISS PENNY
FRI 20
LOLA LASAGNE
FRI 27
SANDRA LONDON
THE VILLAGE BIRMINGHAM

What's On

Mon 9 - Sun 15 July

Let's get Quizzical with DJ Yogi

Wednesday nights at Birmingham's Eden Bar offer the chance to pit your wits against your mates in the Quizzical event. Hosted by DJ Yogi, the quiz involves using your smartphone to answer a few rounds of tricky questions. So if you fancy yourself as the next Egghead, then get along to the venue and try it out for yourself.

Every Wednesday - Eden, Birmingham

Angie Brown to party in Cov!

Coventry's The Yard hosts fantastic live acts and cabaret each and every week - and Saturday the 14th sees Bizarre Inc vocalist Angie Brown taking to the stage! Known for the smash hit I'm Gonna Get You, Angie really knows how to get a club rockin'!

Saturday 14 July - The Yard, Coventry

Saucy Sundays Double cabaret with LaQueefa and guests!

Why not head down to Birmingham's Missing Bar every Sunday evening for a night of double cabaret with the one and only Amy LaQueefa?!

Each week she'll be joined by special guest acts, providing the ideal end to the week end and gearing you up for the week ahead!

Every Sunday - Missing, Birmingham

La Voix returns to Eden Bar!

La Voix is a class act, as evidenced by her semi-final appearance on Britain's Got Talent. If you haven't seen one of her fantastic shows yet, put that right by popping along to Eden Bar this very month.

Thursday 18 July Eden Bar, Birmingham

Loyalty Card launched by Brum gay venues

If you're a regular at Birmingham gay venues The Nightingale, The Village Inn and The Loft, then be sure to pick up their new loyalty card. For every £1 spent, you earn one point, which is equal in value to 10p. The more you spend, the more you can get back in the future.

FABULOUS MONDAYS!

MON 2 JULY

FREE ENTRY

CHARLIE HIDE

FROM

RuPaul's DRAG RACE

SPIRIT SHREWSBURY

HAVANA ★ REPUBLIC

18-21 ABBEY FOREGATE, SHREWSBURY, SHROPSHIRE SY2 6AE. TEL: 01743 271821

What's On

Mon 16 - Sun 22 July

Birmingham's Village Inn - the 2018 Midlands Zone Readers' Award's Best Live Music Venue - hosts fantastic live cabaret each and every week. Friday the 20th sees an evening of fun and frolics with the inimitable Lola Lasagne!

Friday 20 July - The Village Inn, Birmingham

Furry fun with MidsBears

If you're a bear, or a friend of the bear community at large, then pop down to MidsBears at Eden every third Friday of the month. It's a great night out and attracts a fab crowd. Check it out - you'll love it!

Friday 20 July - Eden Bar, Birmingham

Artful Dodger return for summer street party

Veteran DJs Artful Dodger are set to appear in Birmingham this month as headliners at the Summer Street Party outside gay venue The Nightingale. Other DJs on the day include Pantha, Burga Boy, Sub Zero, NasteeBoi, Murkz and Summer Junkies.

Tickets are available now from skiddle.com

Saturday 21 July - The Nightingale, Birmingham

Weekly karaoke

at top Coventry gay venue

Up for a bit of a mid week sing-song? Then be sure to head along to Coventry gay venue The Yard. There, you'll be joined by Minnie & Jupiter from 8pm onwards, catering for all your karaoke needs. There's even a free shot for every singer!

Every Thursday The Yard, Coventry

SKYLINE SERIES

DIGBETH ARENA
BIRMINGHAM

FRIDAY 24TH AUGUST 2018
BRIAN WILSON
PERFORMING PET SOUNDS
TURIN BRAKES

SATURDAY 25TH AUGUST 2018
JAMES ARTHUR
JP COOPER NINA NESBITT

SATURDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2018
TEXAS + IMELDA MAY
WARD THOMAS

FRIDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2018
THE THE
FIELD MUSIC

SATURDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2018
GARBAGE
MAXIMO PARK
HONEYBLOOD

ALL SHOWS 14+

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WWW.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK // WWW.SKIDDLE.COM // WWW.SEETICKETS.COM //
WWW.TICKETMASTER.COM // WWW.ENTS24.COM // WWW.GIGANTIC.COM

What's On

Mon 23 - Tues 31 July

Brum cabaret with Mary Mac

Scotland's finest drag queen is back at Birmingham gay venue Eden this month, performing in the bar's marquee. Plus, there's great music to be dancing along to from DJ Toni Lee!

Saturday 28 July - Eden, Birmingham

Party with Mike Emery!

If, like us, you love a midweek party, then you should head to Birmingham's Glamorous Bar for a great night out with award-winning DJ Mike Emery
Mike will be playing only the best tunes all night long, and really getting you into the party spirit!

Every Monday, Wednesday & Friday
Glamorous, Birmingham

Sing with Sandra at The Village Inn!

This week's Friday night cabaret at Birmingham's award winning Village Inn is provided by drag veteran Sandra London, who'll be presenting an evening of cracking comedy and singa-long magic. What's not to like?

Friday 27 July - The Village Inn, Birmingham

Head to Saathi at The Nightingale

Saathi is Birmingham's biggest and best Asian monthly LGBT night - and it's nearly time for another installment!

It's £10 entry before midnight and runs until 4am in the morning!

Friday 25 May
The Nightingale, Birmingham

Anyone for cocktails?

You've had a great weekend partying in Brum's gay village - and then along comes Monday to bring you crashing back down to earth with a great big bang. But fear not, there's still fun to be had! Every Monday, The Loft runs its hugely popular Cocktail Club, serving two cocktails for just a tenner from 5pm until late. There's a massive menu to choose from too, meaning there's something for everyone to enjoy!

Every Monday - The Loft, Birmingham

Weekly Karaoke at Eden Bar

If you crave something a bit different from a typical night out in Brum's gay village, look no further than Eden Bar's ever-so-entertaining evening of karaoke and disco - complete with a winning contribution from the venue's very own DJ Nikki!
Have you got the voice of an angel? Or maybe it's more like Honey G's?! Whichever, the fun's certainly not in short supply, so get yourself along there asap!

Every Friday & Sunday - Eden, Birmingham

FRIDAY 20 JULY
6PM - 10PM

SATURDAY 21 JULY
11AM - 6PM

SUNDAY 22 JULY
12PM - 5PM

JQ festival 2018

Get the latest news &
share your views using
#JQFESTIVAL

[redacted]

What's On

Arts | Theatre | Entertainment

Ideal Home

Steve Coogan and Paul Rudd here star as Erasmus and Paul, a gay couple who find their extravagant way of living unexpectedly compromised by the arrival on their doorstep of a 10-year-old boy What's more, the youngster is claiming he's Erasmus' grandson... But are the two fellas ready to give up their fun loving lifestyles in favour of becoming responsible parents?... **Released Friday 6 July**

Blame it on Bianca Del Rio!

"I hope you're ready for some filthy, nasty, hateful humour," says Bianca Del Rio, "because I'm coming to Birmingham with a brand new comedy show!" Hailed as the drag world's answer to Joan Rivers, self-proclaimed 'clown in a gown' Bianca - real name Roy Haylock - is a former winner of hit US reality TV series RuPaul's Drag Race. Her 2017 UK tour went down an absolute storm, with a similar success story expected this time round.

Monday 30 July, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Whitney

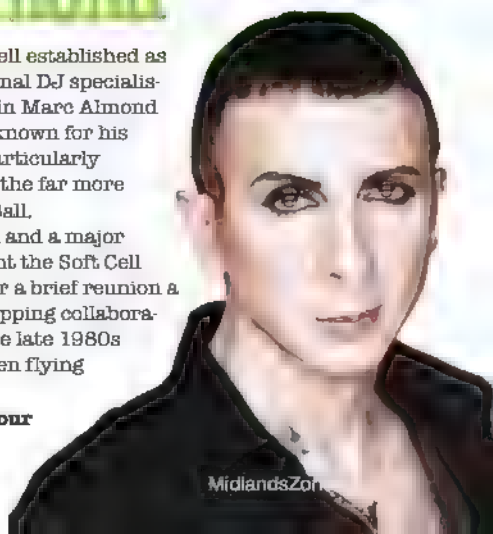
Only last summer, Nick Broomfield brought us his critically acclaimed documentary Whitney: Can I Be Me (2017). So, are we ready for another documentary on Whitney Houston? If so, the subject is in good hands, as Kevin Macdonald's previous forays into non-fiction brought us the Oscar-winning One Day In September, the Bafta-winning Touching The Void and the extremely well-received musical biopic Marley

Released Fri 6 July

Marc Almond

Although he's nowadays well established as a solo artist and international DJ specialising in electro-clash, the elfin Marc Almond nonetheless remains best known for his Soft Cell collaborations - particularly 1981's Tainted Love - with the far more anonymous-looking Dave Ball.
Drug addiction, alcoholism and a major nervous breakdown brought the Soft Cell days to an end, and save for a brief reunion a decade ago - and a chart-topping collaboration with Gene Pitney in the late 1980s - Almond's pretty much been flying solo ever since

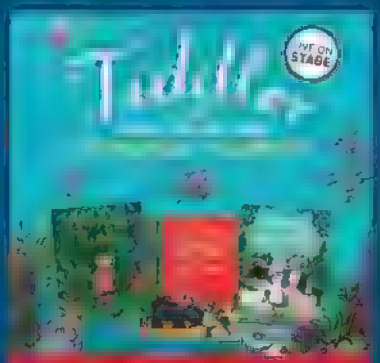
Saturday 21 July, Splendour Festival, Nottingham



COMING SOON TO THE NEW ALEXANDRA THEATRE

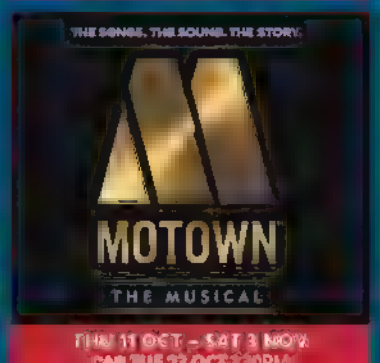
TUE 31 JUL – SAT 4 AUG
THU 2 AUG 2.30PM

WED 22 – SAT 25 AUG
DAP SAT 25 AUG 2.30PM



THU 30 AUG – SAT 1 SEP

TUE 25 – SAT 29 SEP

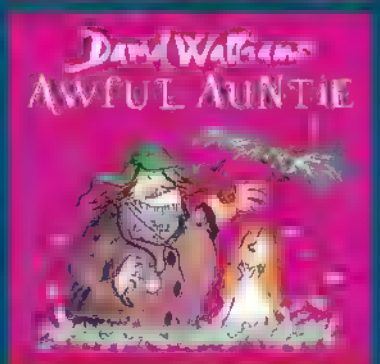


THU 11 OCT – SAT 3 NOV
CAP TUE 23 OCT 2.30PM
Eg WED 26 OCT 2.30PM
AD WED 26 OCT 7.30PM

MON 3 – SAT 29 NOV

TUE 13 – SAT 17 NOV
AD THU 15 NOV 7.30PM

MON 20 – SAT 24 NOV



TUE 27 NOV – SAT 1 DEC
R TUE 27 NOV 2PM

AD AUDIO DESCRIBED CAP CAPTIONED R RELAXED Eg SIGNED

NEW ALEXANDRA THEATRE
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ATGTICKETS.COM/Birmingham*

*Booking fees apply. Calls cost up to 7p per minute, plus your phone company's access charge.

A Self Help Guide To Being In Love With Jeremy Corbyn

Card carrying Labour supporter Jess Green has fallen for an older man - and she's not alone. The apple of Jess's eye is bearded wonder Jeremy Corbyn, the manhole loving vegetarian pacifist who's taken Labour by the scruff of the neck and given it a quiet talking to. Red Jezza's near-godlike status comes under the microscope in this brand new show from Jess, who is once again joined by the ever-magnificent Mischief Thieves. Best brace yourself. There may be rousing choruses of Oh Jeremy Corbyn before the night's out...

Thursday 19 July, Derby Theatre; Friday 20 July, Curve, Leicester; Saturday 21 July, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again!

Matilda The Musical

Adapted from one of Roald Dahl's best-loved books, the Royal Shakespeare Company's stage musical version of Matilda - complete with music and lyrics by comedian Tim Minchin - has been delighting West End audiences for six years.
A staggering eight million people worldwide have so far seen productions of the critically acclaimed show, which has visited more than 50 cities and bagged an impressive 80-plus international awards.
Impressive statistics indeed. If you haven't done so already, bag yourself a ticket and find out what all the fuss is about!

Tuesday 3 July - Saturday 8 September, Birmingham Hippodrome

Ladies Day

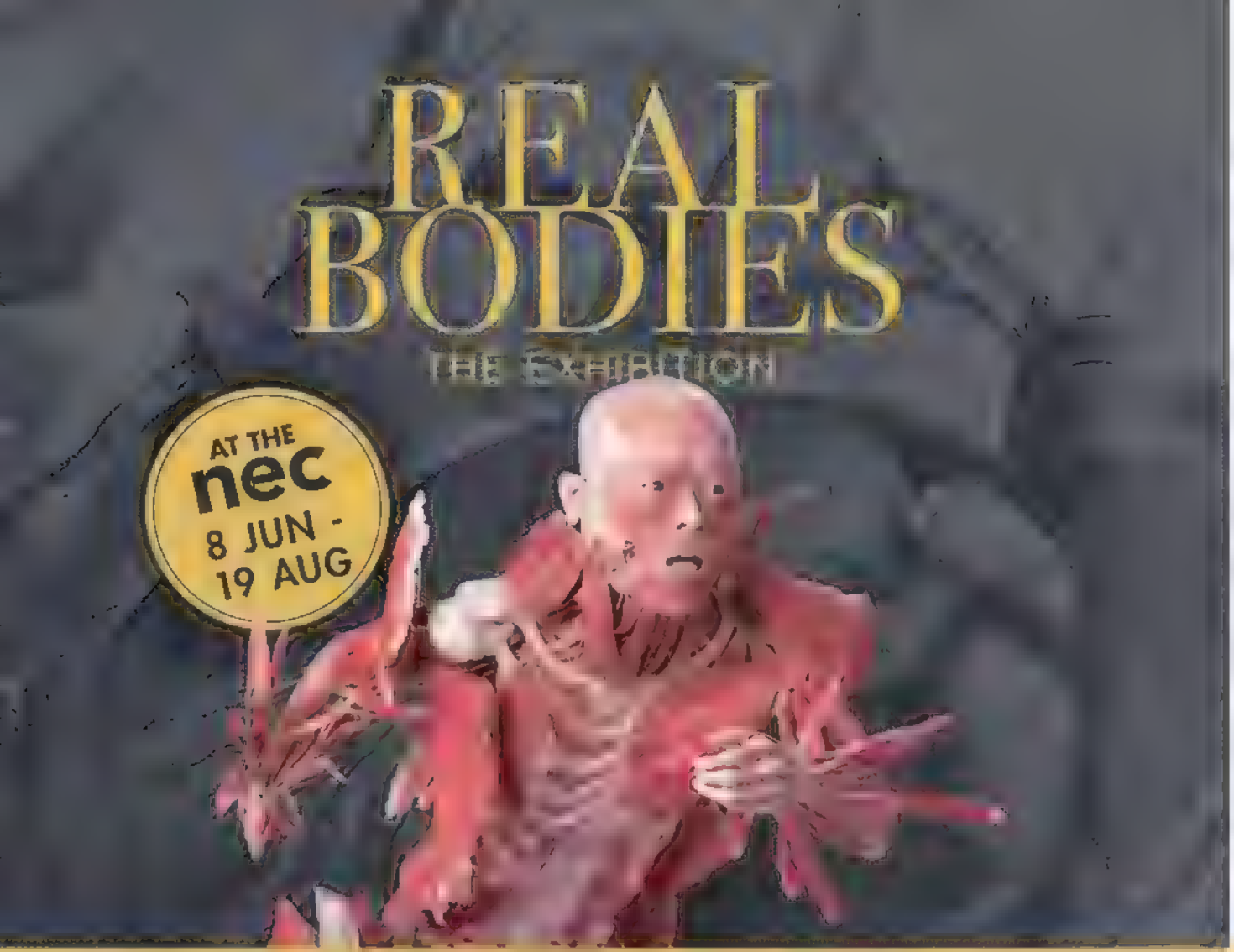
Work, love and life are just one long, hard slog for fish-filleting foursome Pearl, Jan, Shelley and Linda. Will their fortunes change when they head to Ladies' Day at Wolverhampton Racecourse?
Written by one of the most widely performed playwrights in the UK - Amanda Whittington - Ladies' Day is an exuberant comedy about a quartet of likely lasses and their fun-filled day out at the racecourse
Ex EastEnder Cheryl Fergison and former Emmerdale favourite Deena Payne star in a show that's been specially updated for its run at the Grand.

Friday 13 - Saturday 28 July, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

REAL BODIES

THE EXHIBITION

AT THE nec
8 JUN - 19 AUG



DID YOU KNOW?

MOVE

If all the muscles in the human body worked together, [illegible]

GET TO KNOW YOUR BODY—INSIDE AND OUT!

8 JUN - 19 AUG 18 | THE NEC, HALL 4

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imagine

the ticket factory

The Fox

The Nightingale

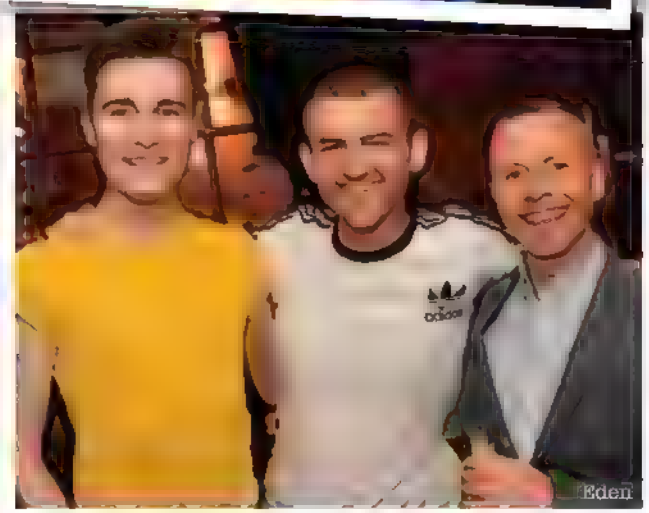
Party all night in vibrant Birmingham

The Village Inn

If you're out for the night in Birmingham, then the city's gay scene is a great place to be!

With over 15 bars and clubs to choose from, there really is something for everyone! It's a truly fab night out!

The Nightingale


Eden

The Loft

Missing

Club Chill

VINTAGE
SUPER DRY

Missing

Eden

TOMMY JEANS
Sidewalk

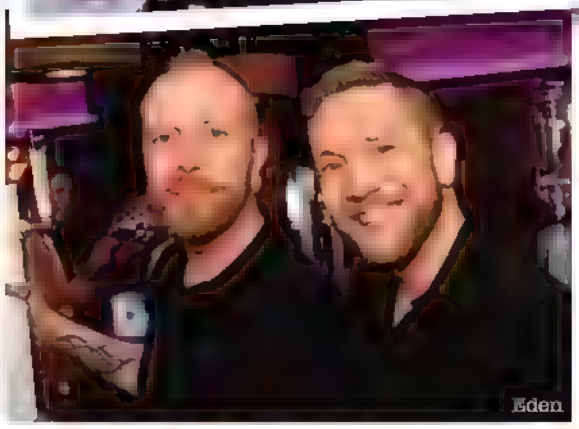
Sidewalk

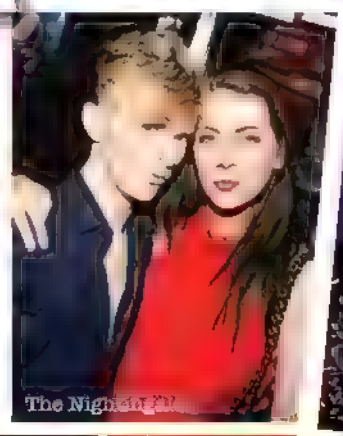
The Nightingale

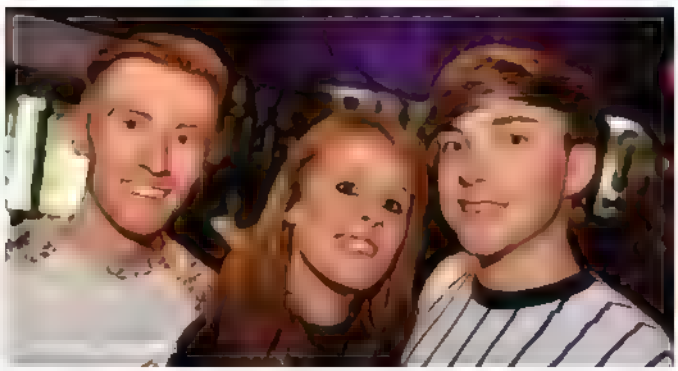
The Fox

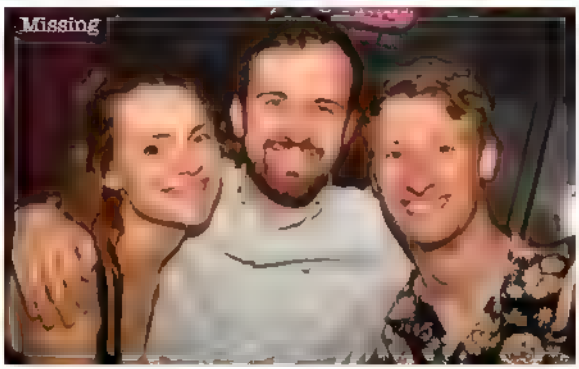
Missing

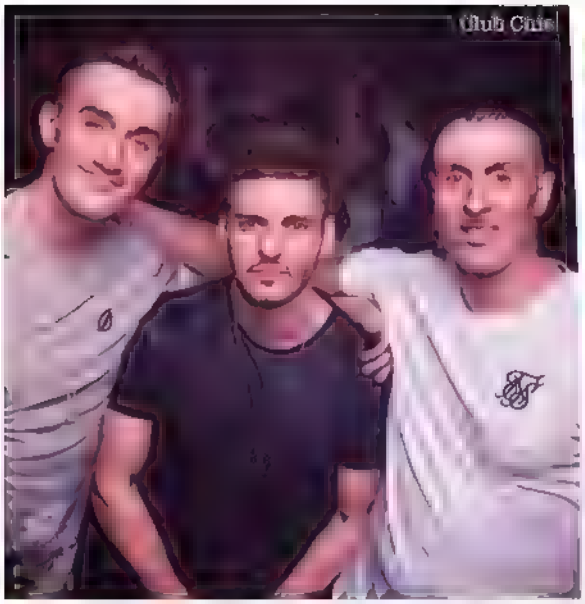
Party all night in vibrant Birmingham

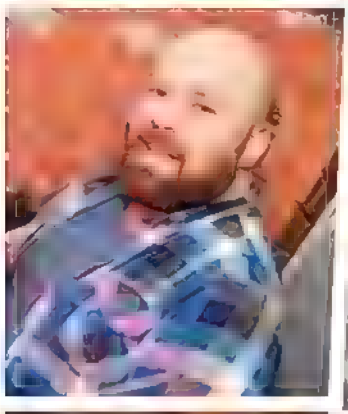






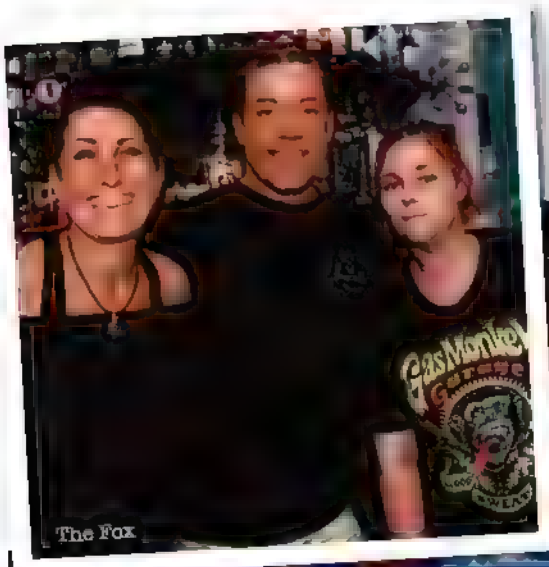


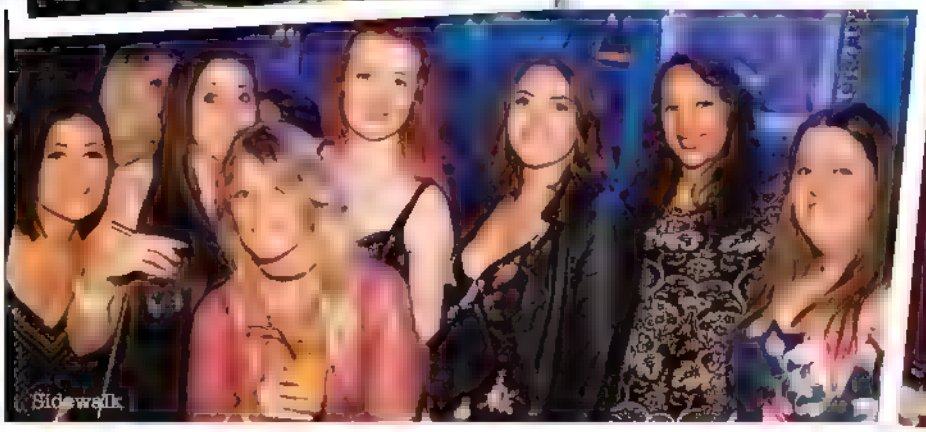


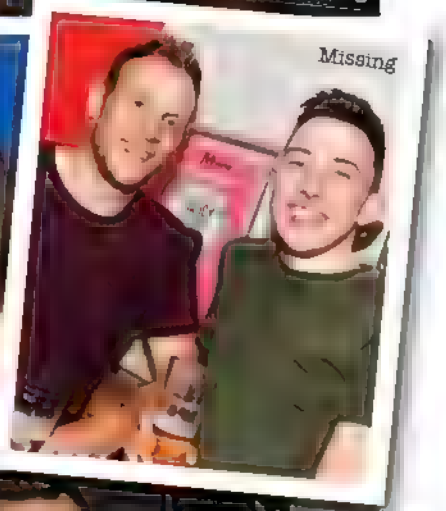


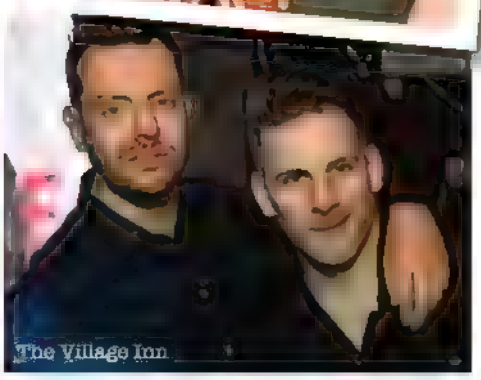
Pictures by Riley Dixon

Party all night in reformed Birmingham









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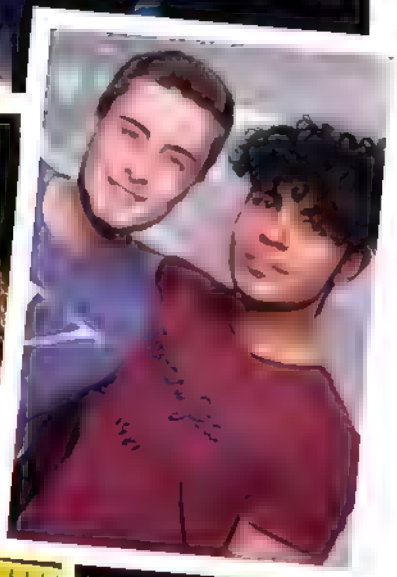
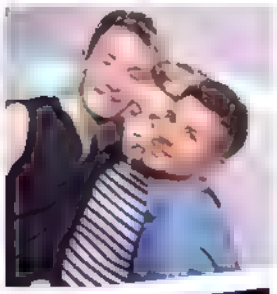
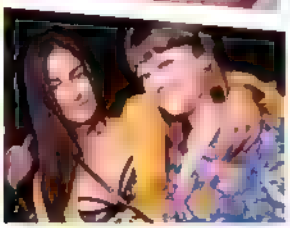
A Gorgeous night out in Wolverhampton

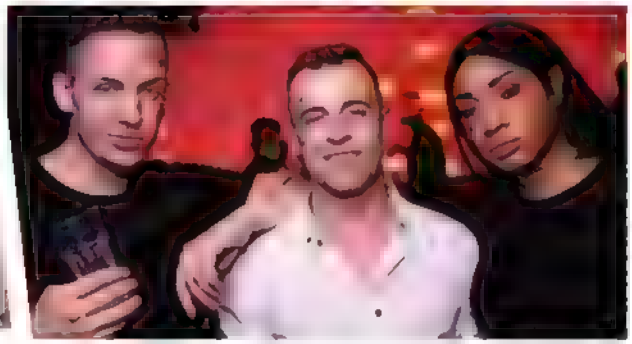


If you're looking to party in Wolverhampton, head down to local LGBT venue Gorgeous for an evening of top-class revelry!

Bringing together a great atmosphere, cracking drinks offers, fabulous customers and fantastic music, the venue offers a truly Gorgeous night out!







Pictures by Laura Byrne

the yard

JULY

FREE

ZOME

READERS AWARDS

BEST NEW BAR

BEST BAR OUTSIDE BIRMINGHAM

BEST NIGHTCLUB OUTSIDE BIRMINGHAM

CABARET

FRIDAY 4TH
MISS MARTY

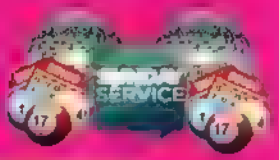
FRIDAY 11TH
DIVINE MISS M

FRIDAY 18TH
FANNY BURNS

FRIDAY 25TH
SPANGLES GALORE

Karaoke Thursdays

THE BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT
THROUGH UNTIL 4AM



SATURDAY 14TH JULY

ANGIE BROWN

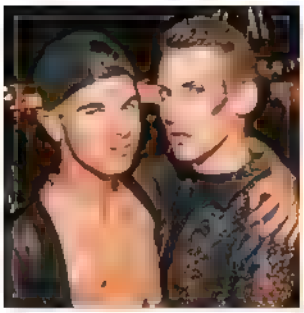
"I'M GONNA GET YOU" AND "TOOK MY LOVE"

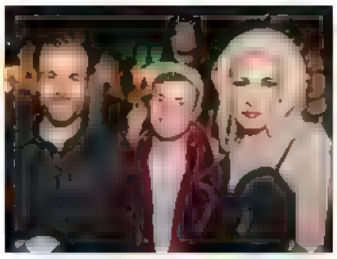
THE YARD, 11-12 BULL YARD, COVENTRY, CV1 1LH WWW.THEYARDCOVENTRY.CO.UK

It's a great night out at The Yard

Last month The Yard in Coventry hosted a very special weekend-long street party as part of Coventry Pride. It went off!

Plus, each week they offer special guest cabaret, along with karaoke, amazing drinks offers and a whole lot more. If you've not made it over there yet, make sure that you do!





Pictures by The Yard

at

RAGLEY HALL

WARWICKSHIRE

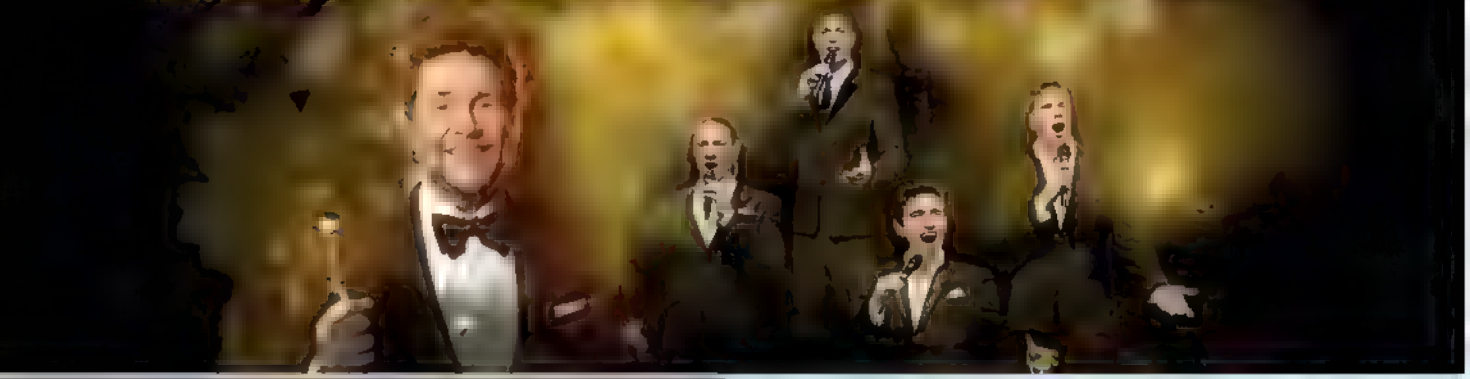
IL DIVO

PLUS VERY SPECIAL GUEST

MICHAEL BALL

SATURDAY

14TH JULY



TOM JONES

LIVE

PLUS GUESTS

INTO THE ARK

THURSDAY

12TH JULY

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Madhead's gather to nice big houses in the country

CUFFE AND TAYLOR IN ASSOCIATION WITH WME PRESENT

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MADNESS

with support from THE TAILORMADE

Friday 13th July

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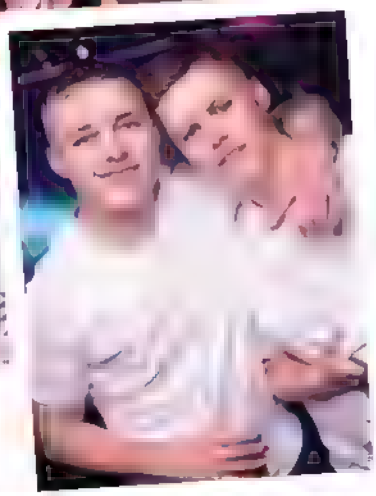
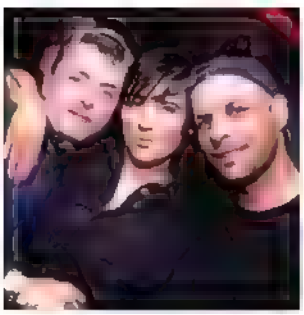
TICKETS & HOTEL PACKAGES: SUPERBREAK.COM

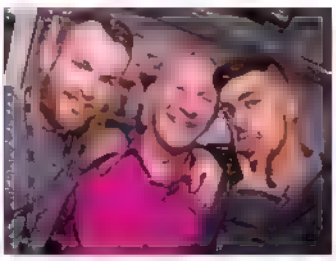
There's a party to be had at Bar Diva

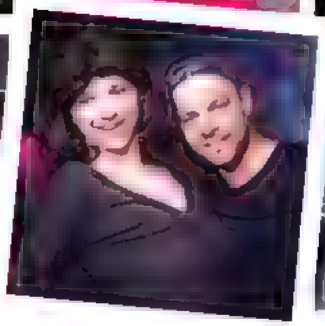


Fancy partying somewhere a bit different? Then head for Bar Diva in Dudley!

A good laugh, great drinks offers and a fantastic atmosphere are pretty much assured when you visit the popular venue, so get set for a night to remember!







Pictures by Laura Byrne

GAY BARS & CLUBS IN THE MIDLANDS...

Birmingham

BAR JESTER
Holloway Circus, B1 1EG
Tel: 0121 643 8344

BOLTZ CLUB
Lower Essex St, B5 6QP
Tel: 0121 666 6888

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28 Horsefair, B1 1DD
Tel: 0121 666 6806

THE CORE
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 2797
www.thecoreclub.co.uk

DEVILS KITCHEN
Kent St, B5 6NB

EDEN BAR
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 1953
www.theedenbar.co.uk
/eden.bar

RHAPSODY BAR
Hurst St, B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 622 4046

FOUNTAIN INN
Wrentham St, B5 6QL
Tel: 0121 622 1452

THE FOX
17 Lower Essex St,
B5 6SN Tel: 0121 622 3213

GLAMOROUS
27 Hurst St, B5 4BD
www.glamorousbirmingham.co.uk
/Glamorousbirmingham

THE LOFT
142 Bromsgrove St,
B5 6RG
Tel: 0121 6222 444
www.theloftlounge.co.uk
/The-Loft-Lounge

MISSING BAR
Hurst St, B5 6NU
Tel: 0121 622 4256
www.missingbar.co.uk
/missingbar

THE NIGHTINGALE
Kent St, B5 6RD
Tel: 0121 622 1718
www.nightingaleclub.co.uk
/thenightingaleclub

SIDEWALK
Hurst Street, B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 666 6220
www.sidewalkbirmingham.co.uk

THE VILLAGE INN
Hurst St, B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 4742
www.villagebirmingham.co.uk
/villageinnbirmingham

THE WELLINGTON
72 Bristol St, B5 7AH
Tel: 0121 622 2592

West Midlands

COVENTRY

GLAMOROUS COVENTRY
88 Short St, CV1 2LX
www.glamouscoventry.co.uk
/GlamorousCoventry

KIKI LOUNGE & LOFT
Earlsdon High St, CV5 6ET

THE YARD
[illegible]
Tel: 02475 012959
www.theyardcoventry.co.uk
/TheYardCoventry

DUDLEY

BAR DIVA
Lower Plaza, King Street,
DY2 8NZ Tel:

GLOUCESTER

THE WESTGATE
Westgate Street, GL1 2NF
Tel: 01452 690045

KIDDERMINSTER

ROYAL EXCHANGE
31 New Road, DY10 1AF
Tel: 01562 228619

SHREWSBURY

THE PEACH TREE
18-21 Abbey Foregate
Tel: 01743 355055
www.thepeachtree.co.uk
/ThePeachTreeRestaurant

HAVANA REPUBLIC
18-21 Abbey Foregate
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
www.havanarepublic.co.uk
/HavanaRepublic

LEEK

VALIANT
3 Stanley Street, ST13 5HG
Tel: 01538 382812

STOKE-ON-TRENT

GOSSIP
4 Hope Street, ST1 5BT
Tel: 01782 204957

PINK
93 Stafford Street, ST1 1LS
Tel: 01782 272772

STOURBRIDGE

THE BELL
20 Market St, DY8 1AG
Tel: 07826 518478

STRATFORD upon AVON

NO.7
Prowd Crowd, 1st Mon
monthly, 7 Windsor St,
Tel: 07787 642510

TELFORD

THREE FURNACES
30 Bridgnorth Rd, Madeley
TF7 4JB 01952 588621

WALSALL

THE LION
Birchills St, WS2 8NG
Tel: 01922 610977

THE RED LION
Park St, WS1 1NW
Tel: 01922 637790

WOLVERHAMPTON

BOND STREET TAVERN
14 Bond St, WV2 4AS
Tel: 07825 305050

GORGEOUS
School St, WV1 4LF
Tel: 01902 427247
/gorgeousbar

WORCESTER

THE FLAG
50 Lowesmoor, WR1 2SG
Tel: 01905 780467

East Midlands

VELVET CLUB
Angel Row, WR1 3QN
Tel: 01905 20218

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THE CROWN INN
40 Curzon St, DE1 1LL
Tel: 01332 381742

LEICESTER

DOVER CASTLE
34 Dover St, LE1 6PT
Tel: 0116 255 3052

HELSINKI
94 Rutland St, LE1 1SB
Tel: 0116 254 7568

RAINBOW & DOVE
185 Charles St, LE1 1LA
Tel: 0116 254 7568

VENOM
(YOLO) Gay every Wed
Belgrave Gate, LE1 3GR
Tel: 0116 251 7986

NORTHAMPTON

THE BOSTON
College St, NN1 2QP
Tel: 01604 604404

NOTTINGHAM

NEW FORESTERS
S Anns St, NG1 3LX
Tel: 0115 958 0432

THE NEWMARKET INN
38 Lower Parliament
Street, NG1 3BA. (Gay
Friendly)

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8 Broadway, NG1 1PS
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WIN! Tickets to **Bianco Del Rio** at Symphony Hall

RuPaul's Drag Race season-six winner Bianca Del Rio is a global superstar with numerous accolades under her corseted belt, including the Best New Television Personality award from NewNowNext.

The self-proclaimed 'clown in a dress' this month brings her Blame It On Bianca show to Birmingham's Symphony Hall (30 July), where she's sure to delight audiences with her razor-sharp wit - "I hope you're ready for some filthy, nasty, hateful humour..."

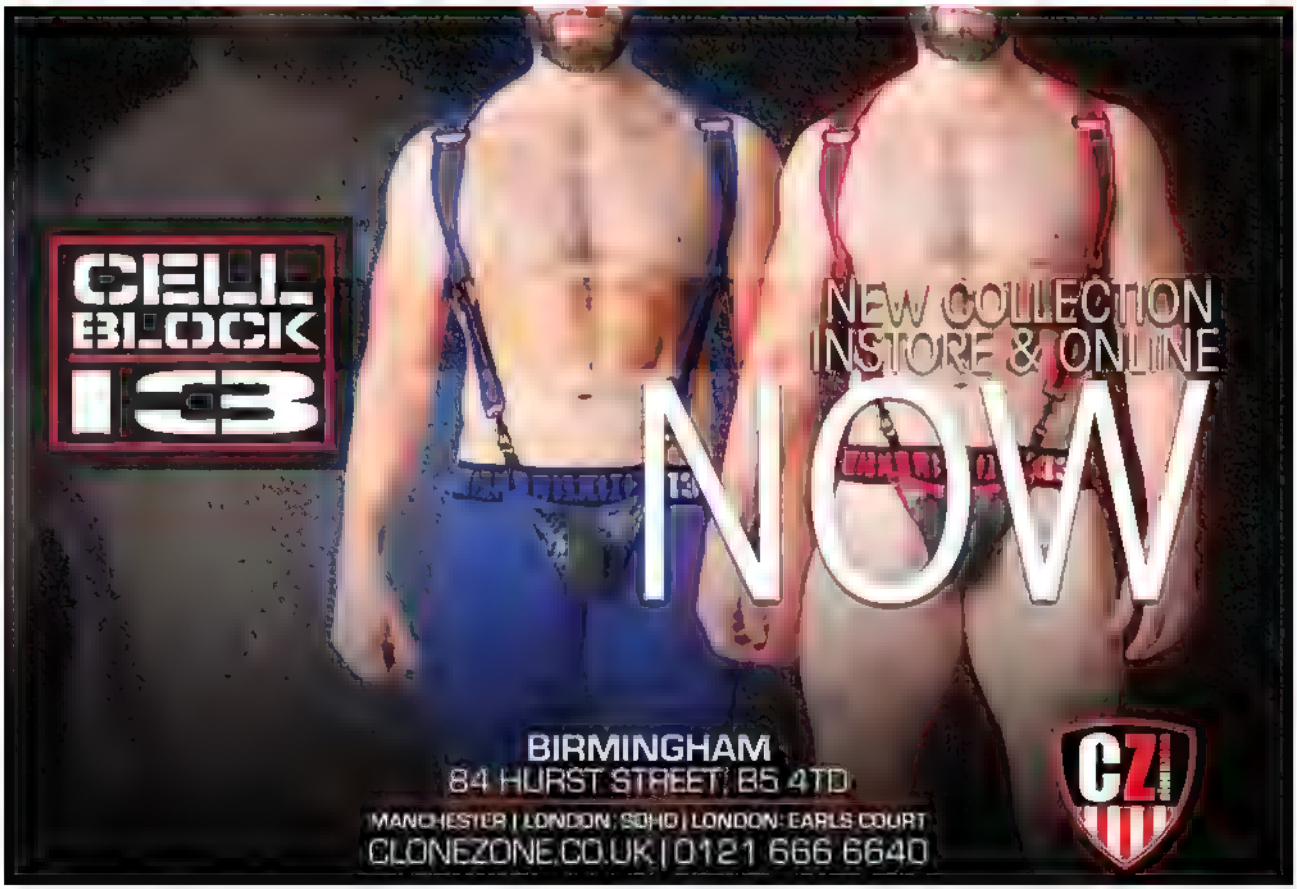
Midlands Zone has one pair of tickets to give away for this sure-to-be-popular show

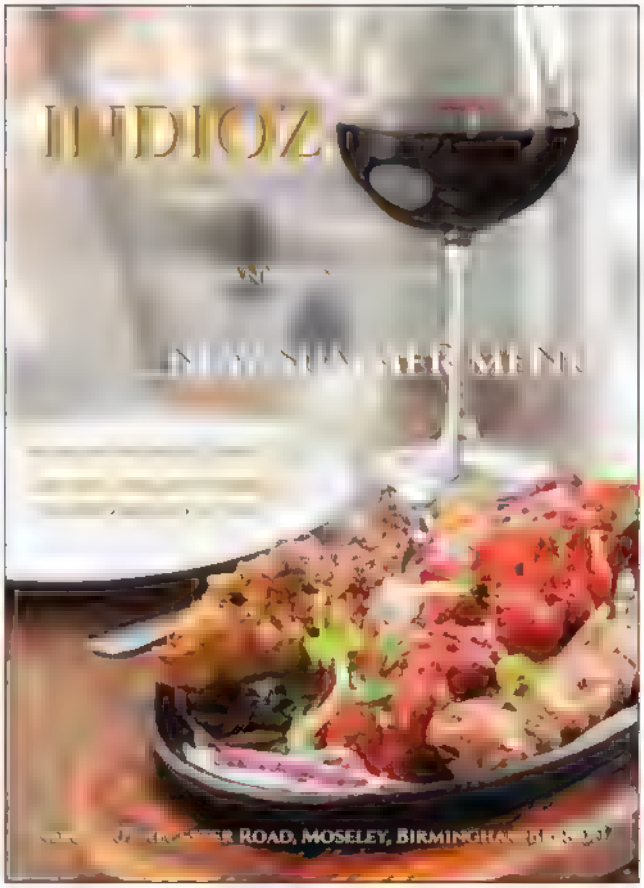
To enter our competition, just visit midlandszone.co.uk and answer the following question:

In which American city does Bianca Del Rio reside?

A) Las Vegas
B) New York
C) San Francisco

Enter the competition via our Facebook page at @midlandszone





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munch

Food and drink news from across the Midlands...

Independent Birmingham Festival's food & drink line-up announced

New 'secret' cocktail bar is coming to Birmingham...

A new 'secret' cocktail bar is to open in Birmingham city centre.

Focused around serving the highest-quality drinks in a laidback and friendly environment, 18/81 will be situated on Thorp Street, with the exact location remaining a secret. Customers will be required to ring a doorbell in order to gain access to the premises.

Boston Tea Party is the first coffee shop to ban all disposable cups in its stores.

The popular chain, which has branches across the Midlands, is set to lose over £1million in sales due to the ban.

Hot drinks will still be available, but customers will need to bring in a reusable cup if they want to purchase one.

There's also the option of 'borrowing' a cup with a refundable deposit, or of buying a branded, reusable cup - made from bamboo fibre - at the counter.

The ban will mean that 300,000 plus disposable cups will no longer be used.

Argentinian steak restaurant set to open on the Stratford Road

Argentinian steak restaurant Fiesta del Asado is due to take over the former M&S Foodhall on Stratford Road in Shirley. The eatery will form part of Birmingham's Lasan Group, which also manages Indian restaurant Lasan in the Jewellery Quarter and Raja Monkey in Hall Green.

Steaks served at the restaurant are from naturally reared grass-fed cattle, with the meat being dry cured for 28 days. The largest available steak is a 40oz Bife de costilla, priced at £55.99. Cheaper alternatives include a 10oz sirloin at £21.49 and a 12oz ribeye at £23.89

KWIK PRICK

Kwik Prick is a free rapid HIV test for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities, and is available at Trade every Monday* from 12 noon until 6pm.

Kwik Prick

- Free and confidential
- Uses only a finger-prick blood sample
- Results within minutes
- 99.7% accuracy
- May detect HIV exposure from as little as 4 weeks ago

TRADE

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Location: **Trade, 2nd Floor,**
27 Bowling Green Street, Leicester, LE1 6AS
For more information call us on **0116 254 1747**
or visit us at **www.tradesexualhealth.com**

*Kwik Prick is not available on Public Holidays
Trade Charity Number 1061552

LGBT POLSKA

LGBT Polska is a social meet up group for the Polish LGBT community and their friends in the West Midlands

NHS

MENS HEALTH

LEICESTER

Free, private and confidential sexual health checks to gay & bisexual men, and men who have sex with men (MSM).

Amigos Leisure

Day: Thursdays
Time: 3pm - 6pm (Last appointment 5.30pm)

Place: 30 Bedford Street South,
Leicester, LE1 3JR

Splash Spa & Leisure

Day: Tuesdays
Time: 11am - 2pm (Last appointment 1.40pm)

Day: Thursdays
Time: 3pm - 6pm (Last appointment 5.30pm)

Place: 61 Bedford Street, Leicester, LE1 3JR

TRADE

You can also check out Trade Sexual Health:

www.tradesexualhealth.com

Further information available:
www.leicestersexualhealth.nhs.uk

Sonos One

Sonos' Alexa-powered speaker is cleanly designed, feature-rich and great-sounding, bringing together Sonos' award-winning sound and Amazon's clever assistant service. The sound is rich and the best of any smart speaker out there. Google Assistant support is set to arrive soon, too.

£1[illegible].00

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Google Home

Google's own smart speaker combines its own Assistant service with a tight relationship with many 'smart home' ecosystems and fantastic music support. It links to Chromecast devices perfectly.

£1[illegible].00

store.google.com

Smart Speakers

Four of the most popular smart speakers on the market!

Apple HomePod

If you're a die-hard Apple fan, the HomePod is definitely for you. Not only does it feature excellent Siri integration, the sound is also the best on the market, booming your music evenly across the room.

£319.00

apple.com

Amazon Echo

The Amazon Echo is a smart little unit, and great value compared to others. It boasts even more Alexa features than its original counterpart. But don't imagine this will replace your existing home HiFi system, as the speaker just isn't quite there yet.

£89.99

amazon.co.uk

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DAYS A WEEK

LIFE OF A THIRTYSOMETHING GAY

The Stephen Sonnie Column

“Dark times”

A few months back, one night when it snowed like it was ‘north of the Wall’ and the country ground to a halt, I was heading to meet a friend at the opera. Before I got there, a man - young, homeless, desperately cold and anxious - staggered up to people in the street ahead of me. They brushed him off with what sounded like a curt ‘get a job’. I’ve seen him before on Hurst Street. He’s usually with a group of homeless guys that move around Southside.

The next set of people didn’t even look his way, preferring to conceal their faces with their scarves, keeping warm under their thick woollen hats Eventually it was my turn to walk past him. He was crying, pleading for spare change. His face was frozen and dirty. He did, of course, smell horrendous But as I looked right at him, behind the grime I could see a young, handsome guy, with wide eyes imploring me to perform a simple act of kindness. His voice was intensely desperate. Desperate in a way I’d not heard before when someone was pleading for change.

Like so many cities across the UK, Birmingham has seen a significant rise in homelessness. Occasionally I feel com pelled to give out change, although I rarely carry cash. Yet on this bitterly cold, snowy night, wrapped up in my thick Donna Karen coat and Armani scarf, I couldn’t help but dig into my wal let. All I had was a tenner. I gave it to him. He clasped my hands, thanked me time and again and wept bitterly I told him to buy himself a hot drink, all the while thinking he was more likely to spend it on something much harder

Last week, I saw his two homeless ‘mates’. I’ve seen them time and again but never the guy I gave the money to. I’ve always wondered what happened to him. I don’t know what compelled me to stop and ask, but this time I did. The two guys looked at me like I was an alien. I guess they normally feel invisible, not used to people stopping to pass the time of day with them. But through the stench of alcohol, they told me he had died months ago, having never woken up one night. The news felt like a hollow punch in my stomach. I was shocked. So shocked it still haunts my thoughts today. How did a young guy like him end up where he did, and then die alone on the cold streets of this city?

It’s estimated that between five and 10 percent of the UK population as a whole are LGBTQ. Apparently, of all the people homeless in the UK, a staggering 24% are from the LGBTQ community. That means that one in every four homeless people you pass tonight, tomorrow and every day in Birmingham, is from our community. I don’t know about you, but that shocks me. As we celebrate our civic rights and hard-won milestones, how is it that in 2018, this problem is rarely known about and, worse still, never properly addressed?

The Albert Kennedy Trust is a charity that works with homeless LGBT people. From their work, they estimate that of the 24% on the streets, 77% find themselves there because of intolerances associated with their sexuality, often levied by close family members. Rejection, physical and/or emotional violence and sexual exploitation as a result of being or revealing their sexual identity, sees them driven out of their family homes, often with nowhere to go. The fall is swift, deliberate and targeted. The rejection and dramatic change in circumstances often leads to mental health issues, drug and excessive alcohol abuse It’s a game of shame, survival and death. The spiral becomes fixed and one way

The Albert Kennedy Trust asked those they have supported what would have helped during periods of homelessness. The most common responses were access to mental health services, social support, substance misuse support and knowledge of - and access to - homelessness services. What the Trust’s work also uncovers is the impact on the homeless of being rejected by those around them, meaning that when these young people end up on the streets, they remain too afraid to speak out about their sexuality. They remain closeted, failing to reach out to homelessness services and seek help, fearing yet more rejection. It’s all they’ve ever known. As a result, LGBT homeless people are some of the most marginalised in our so-called

civilised society

But family rejection is not the only driver. There is something of a perfect storm here. With rising house prices and hiked up rents, getting onto the property ladder is in itself something many mil lennials struggle to achieve. Priced out of buying a home, most young people must remain with parents or seek out affordable rented housing, but are finding that this is also less available For some LGBT people, this is not an option and leads to a life on the streets

There’s also the issue of location. Liv ing in the city, growing up gay, coming out young and ‘fitting in’ seems easier than ever. Yet step away from the bright lights, or into less liberal parts of the big smoke, and the story is very different. With a lack of local facilities, bars, soci eties and social groups, some people never feel connected to their community Many leave for the city, expecting to be part of something bigger, only to find themselves marginalised within their own community because they’re perceived to be too camp, too masc, too fat, too thin, too hairy, too ugly (whatever that really means) and much else besides

So the next time you’re walking through the city, take a moment to stop and remind yourself that homelessness is a real issue. Not just for LGBT people, but for all of us. Don’t take what you see at face value, because behind every homeless person is a story of fear, rejection, intolerance and isolation. Behind all of this is a real person. Spare a thought, and make donations to LGBT homelessness charities, because they need financial help.
Your kindness may just save a life.

CAT'S CORNER

"Prides come before the Fall"

Forgive me if I seem a little down. I am down. Let's face it, July is the saddest time, as the last of the Prides are fast approaching, both in the UK and around the world.

It'll soon be time to pack away the feather boas, sift the last of the glitter out of our hair and wallow in the greatest hangovers of all time.

When the whole idea of Pride marches came about, they could've been called anything, really - strength, avarice, joy, courage, anger, pissedoffness. All these emotions were true for our battered community in the 1970s, when Prides were first conceived as a response to the Stonewall riots in New York.

And when I first started going to Prides, there was a lot of anger and much frustration about our lack of rights and the lack of any support in the face of homophobic abuse and violence. There was also, of course, a party and a fantastic time, but when we marched, we chanted - and our chants were filled with fury.

There was also sadness as, while Pride events were huge and busy, there were always so many friends who felt they couldn't go along because they were scared - scared of what might happen and scared of being seen at a gay event.

It's amazing how, over the years, the party aspect of Pride, rather than the ire, has been able to shine through and become the focus of the events. Going to Pride is nowadays about going to have the best time and celebrating everything that's fantastic.

But the one element that's remained strong and unchanging throughout Pride events, since those very first ones in the early 1970s, is the sense of pride. Coming out isn't always a great time - it's like puberty but turbo-charged. There are all of those doubts and fears and concerns and worries about whether anyone is even going to fancy you anyway, and how soon you can stick a tongue in on that first kiss and all of that. Being at a Pride event, where everyone has been through, or is going through, the same feelings and experiences, is incredibly liberating. Just being with people who are proud to be who they are fills you with enough wellbeing to keep you going for at least the following year.

Prides should be available to everybody - one day a year when you can say, yes, this is me. I may look like a prat in my feather boa, but I'm proud to be me. It'd probably save the NHS a fortune.

ON THE BALL with Steve Ball

Older and wiser

I celebrated a birthday last month. A significant one with a big fat zero at the end of the number. It's fair to say that I wasn't particularly looking forward to it.

I do wonder if getting older is something gay men find harder to come to terms with than straight guys. Ageing affects all of us, but there's something about the gay male scene that makes youth - and the sexual attractiveness that supposedly goes with it - a particularly valuable currency.

Researchers have revealed that 'internalised gay ageism' can have a disturbingly negative effect on us as we get older, and that the wider overvaluing of youth in gay culture mixes with standard homophobia to create a brand new internalised 'sexual minority stress'.

As if that wasn't bad enough, researchers have also found a strong link between 'internalised gay ageism' and depression.

A few weeks ago, I was regaling a friend with stories of late-night clubbing 15 years ago. "You were in your prime, then," he said, leaving me feeling somewhat deflated. I may not be as young, fit or gym-toned as I used to be, but as far as I'm concerned I'm in my prime now. And I'm relieved to have put behind me the insecurities and vanity of youth.

Many friends of my age now have the energy and self-confidence that eluded them when they were younger. My generation of gay men have experienced unparalleled changes during their adult lives, and have paved the way for younger generations of LGBT people to face less discrimination and enjoy greater freedoms.

My big birthday has led me to question at what age we are in 'the prime of our lives'. Some older LGBT people feel socially invisible and depreciated when they venture onto the commercial gay scene. But as one gets older, there's a realisation - which dawned quite late in my case - that there's more to life than bars and clubs. As far as I'm concerned, my best years lie in front of me. And the life experiences I've accumulated more than compensate for no longer being able to keep going on the dancefloor until 6am.

THE VIRAL ROUND-UP

Here's what we've been looking at online...

We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!

PARENTS STRUGGLE TO ACCEPT THEIR SON'S SEXUALITY!

We posted this one out on our Facebook to a wave of anger - and quite rightly so! The video shows an interview with a mum and dad who aren't willing to accept their son being gay, ahead of his marriage to his partner.

We can't quite believe how people could cast aside their kids just because of the person they love. What would you say to these parents if you had a chance? Check out the video at: **facebook.com/MidlandsZone**

Twin brothers come out to MUM in sweet video!

Using their platform of 35,000 or so YouTube subscribers, twin brothers Luke and Cooper Coyle document their coming-out journey as they call their mum to reveal the news.

"We're not really hiding it," says Luke, "it's just that awkward elephant in the room."

"Okay, so what?" Mum responds. "As long as you're happy and you know who you are, that makes Daddy and I happy."

Watch the whole, sweet video at **youtu.be/oP7wdNbYZrs**

CELEB SNAPS!

Our fave Drag Race Insta pics...

Violet Chachki is looking fierce here!

There's nothing trashy about Sasha Velour!

All these years later and season one winner BeBe is still slaying it!

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